Approved For Release 2008/03/03: CIA-RDP80-00809A000500730233-9 CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS COUNTRY USSR 25X1 **SUBJECT** Weapon Developments DATE DIST. /3 August 1951 HOW PUBLISHED WIESBADENER TAGBLATT WHERE NO. OF PAGES **PUBLISHED** 25X1 DATE PUBLISHED SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. LANGUAGE THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION The following account represents a summary, with quoted passages. of two installments of an anonymous serial entitled "From Rasputin 25X1 to Stalin-Surprising Experiments and Staggering Results." According to Dr. Peters, editor of WILSBADEWER TAGBLATT, the serial was written by Paul Sethe, publisher-editor of the FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, who is "well regarded as a journalist by West German press circles." Sethe is said to have obtained the information from a "well-known German scientist and former university professor." Reportedly, the scientist-professor was taken prisoner at Stalingrad in 1943 and then worked on scientific projects in the USSR. According to Dr. Peters, the scientist escaped from the USSR in 1950 and is now in South America, "doing research work of a kind similar to that he did in Russia." At Novosibirsk, a harbor on the east toast of the Black Sea, we witnessed a remarkable experiment. "We boarded a small cruiser of the Black Sea fleet. The cruiser put out to see at full speed. About noon, when we had lost aight of the coast, we saw a flotilla of submarines toward which we cruised, finally stopping near by. The sea was absolutely calm. "A group of officers left the submarines and came aboard our cruiser. After apeaking with our high-ranking officers and prominent scientists, they returned to their submarines. The submarines then went toward the east, one after the other diving below the surface. Our cruiser moved slowly south.' After a while the submarines emerged again, heading toward us. 25X1 sea mile away, at the spot from which the submarines had emerged, 25X1 a gray wall rising from the waters. Like a massive mountain, the water rose about 20 meters, mighty and solid. A single powerful flood wave rose from the otherwise calm sea. Simultaneously we heard a muffled rumbling as though from a distant thunderstorm. When the water wall reached a height of about 20 meters, its top 25X1 collapsed and it started eddying away rapidly toward the south." The Eussian officers were visibly impressed and pleased with the experiment that such a wave might well destroy a whole convoy or devastate wast areas if directed against the coast. A German scientist employed on the project explained to me "that we had observed merely a small-scale experiment for testing a new kind of mine." On another occasion 25X1 of Kutaissi, taking the road via Gori. acientiade. 25X1 25X1 the entrance to a deep, narrow valley and proceeded on foot. Presently 25X1 the valley widehed and we were overlooking a gorge nurrounded by mountains. Where the valley led into the gorge stood a log cabin. Troops were stationed on the hills CONFIDENTIAL GIVENENTIA CLASSIFICATION X NAVY DISTRIBUTION NSRB STATE ARMY FBI

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surrounding the gorge. "A siren was sounded, and a large number of small rockets were shot into the gorge, each side leveling the rockets at the opposite side of the mountain wall. The rockets hit the rocks with a weak explosion; a dense brownish-yellowish smoke settled among the slopes of the mountains, giving off a pungent smell. The siren was again blown; the shooting ceased. The clouds of smoke hovered above the valley like large cumulus clouds.

a sked to go into the cabin and watch further developments through a window. Another signal was sounded. Red Army soldiers placed some rockets marked with a red ring on the launchers and lit them. Hissing and leaving dense white streamers of smoke behind, these rockets hurled out and disappeared in the smoke masses. The brown masses now began to move rapidly, curling up even more densely. Then blinding lightning flashed, followed immediately by shattering thunder. And now lightning flashed upon lightning, and thunder crashed upon thunder.

"The gorge seemed to have been converted into a sea of flames. Several times the lightning struck at the rocks and the trees in our immediate vicinity. Farther down some trees and shrubs seemed to have caught fire. Thick black smoke rose and mingled with the strange brown masses of clouds. The thunderstorm continued unabated for half an hour.

"Once again the siren blew, and more rockets hissed into the clouds at terrible speed. In a few moments the racket started anew with intensified fury. Again the lightning flashed through the clouds, and the thunder followed with deafening crashes."

This new weapon is said to have been developed by a Kharkov engineer. He was not present at the test and ________ Like the Red Army soldiers employed in the test, who were to vanish after the experiment, the inventor of this artificial thunderstorm disappeared some time ago.

When we descended from the mountains on the following morning, we found many traces of the thunderstorm of the day before. "Numerous trees, shrubs, and ledges of rock had been hit by lightning. Everywhere the traces of lightning were evident: many trees had burned and their charred stumps pointed to the sky. If a military unit had been in that gorge at that time, few men would have been able to get away with their lives.

"Against artillery fire, be it ever so heavy, there is always cover of some kind. Not so with the innumerable lightnings of such an artificial thunderstorm, criss-crossing the entire valley.

"On the following day I visited Professor Yarov at the Institute for Altitude Research. I told him of the experiment with an artificial thunderstorm but even he could tell me nothing definite about it. He merely said that several tests of this kind had been made before we had occasion to attend this one.

"He did tell me, however, of a new Institute for Altitude Research in the Pamir area, located at Stalinabad, south of Samarkand. This Institute runs observation stations in the Pamir mountains at an altitude of 6,500 meters above sea level." Yarov wanted to go there within the next few weeks. "At Stalinabad research is being done on the possibility of using altitude rays for splitting atoms."

Three days later remarkable experiment. Again a crew of scientists and military personnel made their way into the mountains, this time in the direction of Grozny on the northern slopes of the Caucasus.

"In the early afternoon we reached our destination, a small plateau in the Caucasian mountains. On a special vehicle, similar to those used for transporting large searchlights, a metal cylinder measuring about 2.5 meters in length was fitted so that it could be revolved. The metal cylinder protected an enclosed porcelain cylinder.

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positions on the side of the cylinder and the mechanism was set in motion. The transformers started humming. At the front end of the cylinder there appeared a ray of iridescent green light, about 30 centimeters thick against the dark background.

"Our attention was directed to a small flock of wild sheep grazing on the steep slopes of the mountains about 2 kilometers away. By means of a small motor the strange ray was pointed at the sheep. We were able to watch the group through our field glasses. After a few moments three sheep grazing somewhat apart from the others became restless. As though looking for something they raised their heads, then dropped to their knees, and finally toppled off the slope. The whole incident lasted only about half a minute." The Russians were again very pleased. that "this was the greatest distance at which the experiment had been successful so far."

"In the meantime a large bird of prey had settled on a solitary tree about 600 meters away. The ray was directed at the bird, and scarcely had 15 seconds elapsed when it went down as if hit by a bullet.

"One of the engineers had a dog with him. The engineer seized a stone and threw it for the dog to fetch. The ray got hold of the dog and put a sudden end to its life. It slid for several meters, moved along by the impact of its run, so fast did the ray work. However, the distance between the dog and the cylinder was only 30 meters.

"Then the rays were directed at some trees and shrubs. When the instrument was shut down and some time had elapsed, we went to inspect the shrubs and saw that the leaves and thin branches hung down as if wilted by a prolonged drought.

"As to the nature of these rays . Perhaps they are a kind of artificial altitude or ultra rays, so-called 'mesonen' rays ('mesonenstrahlen'). If the Russians ever succeed in expanding the effectiveness of the rays to 12 to 15 kilometers, the Soviet Union will have an anti-aircraft weapon that may never be surpassed."

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